

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-6 to read as follows (a version of Claims 1-6 marked up to show the changes is submitted herewith):

1. (Amended) A filter platform for allowing attachment of a plurality of air filter units thereto, the filter platform comprising:
 - a substantially hollow outer housing, the housing forming a chamber within the platform, the housing having a first opening for engaging the platform with a respirator so as to allow air to flow between the chamber and the respirator, and one or more second openings for engaging the platform with the plurality of air filter units so as to allow filtered air to flow into the chamber;
 - a respirator connection member located in association with the first opening, the respirator connection member being structured to sealingly engage the first opening to an input of the respirator; and
 - a filter connection member located in association with the one or more second openings, the filter connection member being structured to sealingly engage the one or more second openings with the plurality of filter units.

2. (Amended) A filter platform according to claim 1, wherein the housing has a third opening, the third opening having means for opening and closing the third opening, said third opening being adapted to selectively receive a sensor or structure for introduction of injectables into the chamber.

3. (Amended) A filter unit comprising:

a substantially hollow filter pad having first and second walls made of filter material, and an annular edge member spacing apart the first and second walls, each of the first and second walls being sealingly and integrally engaged to the annular edge member, the annular edge member having an opening for allowing filtered air to pass out of the filter unit, the annular edge member extending around part or all of the periphery of the filter pad, and

a connection member located in association with the opening, for connecting the filter unit to a source of suction.

4. (Amended) A filter unit for filtering air to be fed to a respirator

through a filter platform comprising an outer housing, the housing forming a chamber within the filter platform, the housing having a first opening at one end of the housing for engaging the platform with a respirator so as to allow air to flow between the chamber and the respirator, and a second opening for engaging the platform with the air filter unit so as to allow filtered air to flow into the chamber; a respirator connection member located in association with the first opening, the respirator connection member being structured to sealingly engage the first opening to an input of the respirator; and a filter connection member located in association with the second opening, the filter connection member being structured to sealingly engage the second opening with the filter unit, the filter unit comprising:

a substantially hollow filter pad having first and second walls made of filter material, and an annular edge member spacing apart the first and second walls, each of the first and second walls being sealingly and integrally engaged to the annular

edge member, the annular edge member having an opening for engaging the filter unit with the second opening of the filter platform; and

a platform connection member located in association with the opening for engaging, the platform connection member being structured to sealingly engage the filter unit with the filter connection member of the platform.

5. (Amended) A filter device comprising:

(a) one or more filter units, each comprising:

one or more substantially hollow filter pads, each having first and second walls made of filter material, and an annular edge member spacing apart the first and second walls, each of the first and second walls being sealingly and integrally engaged to the annular edge member, the annular edge member having an opening for allowing filtered air to pass out of the filter unit, and

a platform connection member located in association with the opening of each of said one or more plural filter pads for allowing filtered air to pass; and

(b) a filter platform comprising:

a substantially hollow outer housing, the housing forming a chamber within the platform, the housing having a first opening of the housing for engaging the platform with a respirator so as to allow air to flow between the chamber and the respirator, and one or more second openings for engaging the platform with the one or more filter units so as to allow filtered air to flow into the chamber;

a respirator connection member located in association with the first opening, the respirator connection member being structured to sealingly engage the first opening to an input of the respirator; and

a filter connection member located in association with the one or more second openings, the filter connection member being structured to sealingly engage the one or more second openings with the one or more filter units.

6. (Amended) A filter unit comprising:

a substantially hollow filter pad having first and second walls made of filter material and an annular edge member spacing apart the first and second walls, each of the first and second walls being sealingly and integrally engaged either to each other or to the annular edge member fully or partially, the annular edge member having an opening and means for connecting the filter unit to a respirator or source of suction.

7. (Not Currently Amended) A filter unit according to claim 6, wherein said filter unit is structured to allow connection to the respirator or source of suction in parallel with, or at predetermined orientations, angles and positions with respect to the respirator or source of suction, with or without additional or intermediary connecting structure.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are now presented for examination. Claims 1-6 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are the independent claims.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by French Patent Document FR 747,042 (the French '042 document) and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Palazzato et al. Claim 1 also was rejected under 35 U.S.C.